



U.S. Department of Justice

**Thomas Scott Woodward**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Casino Strong-Armed Robbery Results in Prison for Joplin Man**

Acting U.S. Attorney Thomas Scott Woodward announced that a 25 year-old man was sentenced to federal prison today for robbing a woman in an Indian casino parking lot.

Gregory Ryan Seward, a non-Indian from Joplin, Missouri was sentenced to 37 months in the Federal Bureau of Prison plus three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay restitution of \$5,649 to the victim. Seward had earlier pled guilty to a Grand Jury Indictment issued in May for attacking a woman (Indian) on April 27, 2009, in the parking lot of the Quapaw Tribe's Downstream Casino in Ottawa County. Seward observed the woman gambling inside the casino and then followed her out to her car where he approached her by pretending to ask for a cigarette. When he got close to the victim, he grabbed her purse and tried to run away. The victim fought back and Seward punched her in the face knocking her momentarily unconscious. As she regained consciousness, she was aware enough to take his license plate number as he drove away. The victim was taken by ambulance to an area hospital and treated for her injuries. Law enforcement officers identified the suspect from video surveillance, car tag, and his player's club card from the casino, where he had earlier been gambling himself. Officers obtained a search and arrest warrant and found Seward in Joplin.

Acting U.S. Attorney Woodward thanked the work of investigators in this case from the Quapaw Tribal Police and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Woodward further stated, "The U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to vigorously prosecute individuals who commit violent criminal acts in Indian Country in the Northern District of Oklahoma."

This prosecution proceeded in federal court because the crime occurred in Indian Country, where major criminal offenses fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Courts. Assistant U.S. Attorney R.Trent Shores represented the government in the case.